UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.1/51/L.53
15 November 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-first session
FIRST COMMITTEE
Agenda item 71 (j)

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT: NON-PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AND OF VEHICLES FOR THEIR DELIVERY IN ALL ITS ASPECTS

Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons: 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its Preparatory Committee

Note by the Secretariat concerning the responsibilities entrusted to the Secretary-General under draft resolution A/C.1/51/L.3

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 1 and 2 of draft resolution A/C.1/51/L.3, the General Assembly would:

(a) Take note of the decision of the parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, following appropriate consultations, to hold the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee in New York from 7 to 18 April 1997;

(b) Request the Secretary-General to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services, including summary records, as may be required for the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its Preparatory Committee.

2. The request contained in operative paragraph 2 relates to major programme 1, Maintenance of peace and security, disarmament and decolonization, programme 7, Disarmament, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, as revised. 1/ The programme is covered under section 2, Political affairs, and is associated with subprogramme 1, Deliberation and negotiation, of the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997. 2/

3. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/51/L.3, it is the understanding of the Secretary-General that Secretariat assistance and substantive support services would be required for its implementation.

4. In addition, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, no modifications would be required in the activities under section 2, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 as the activities to be undertaken under the draft resolution fall under programme 7, Disarmament, subprogramme 1, Deliberation and negotiation, activity 1, International cooperation, (a) Depositary services.

5. With respect to the assistance and services to be rendered to the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its Preparatory Committee, related requirements for conference-servicing and other costs are envisaged. The first session of the Preparatory Committee is scheduled to take place in New York from 7 to 18 April 1997. A decision on the dates and venues for holding further meetings of the Preparatory Committee and on the Conference itself is expected to be made by the Parties at the first session of the Preparatory Committee, together with a number of other decisions on organizational arrangements, including the provision of summary records. Conference-servicing costs of the first session, including provision of summary records, are estimated at $535,700, to which would be applied programme support at the rate of 13 per cent. Non-conference-servicing costs expected to be incurred are being determined.

6. Provision has not been made under section 2.C.4, Disarmament, of the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 to undertake the activities, in connection with the holding of the first session of the Preparatory Committee in April 1997. It should be noted that the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its Preparatory Committee are conferences of States parties to the Treaty. As was the case in the past, conferences on multilateral disarmament treaties, for example, the recent 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its Preparatory Committee and the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques (ENMOD Convention), included in their rules of procedure provisions concerning the arrangements for meeting the costs of the conference, including the sessions of their preparatory committees. Under those arrangements, no additional cost was borne by the regular budget of the Organization.

7. Accordingly, the Secretary-General considers that his mandate under draft resolution A/C.1/51/L.3 to provide the necessary assistance and services as may be required for the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and its Preparatory Committee has no financial implications for the regular budget of the United Nations and that the associated costs would be met by States parties in accordance with the financial arrangements to be made by the conference of the Treaty.

8. Furthermore, all activities related to international conventions or treaties that under their respective legal instruments are to be financed outside the regular budget of the United Nations may only be undertaken when

sufficient resources to cover the activities in question have been received from the States parties in advance. It should be noted that the estimated conference-servicing costs of the first session of the Preparatory Committee are being provided for indicative purposes only and that the parties to the Treaty would bear the actual costs of the Preparatory Committee meeting, which may be somewhat lower or higher than the estimated costs.

9. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/51/L.3, no additional requirements would arise under the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/47/6/Rev.1), vol. I.

2/ Ibid., Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/50/6/Rev.1), vol. I.